UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1996/17
26 April 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Resumed organizational session for 1996
2-3 May 1996

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 1995 session

(29 January-2 February 1996)

SUMMARY

The present report contains four draft decisions on matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council.

By draft decision I, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommends that the Council grant consultative status to two non-governmental organizations which had applied.

By draft decision II, the Committee recommends that the Council withdraw the consultative status of 12 organizations that failed to submit a detailed report on their activities for the period 1988-1991.

By draft decision III, the Committee recommends that the Council approve the participation of 12 organizations of indigenous people not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in the open-ended inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights established by Council resolution 1995/32.

By draft decision IV, the Committee requests the Council to approve the provisional agenda for the session of the Committee to be held in 1996.

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CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION	1 - 2	3
	A. Draft decisions	1	3
	B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council	2	5
II.	APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS	3 - 5	6
III.	REVIEW OF QUADRENNIAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, CATEGORIES I AND II	6 - 23	6
	A. Quadrennial reports, 1990-1993	7 - 15	6
	B. Follow-up to the decisions taken by the Committee at its 1993 session	16 - 23	9
IV.	PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 1996 SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE	24 - 26	10
V.	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE	27	11
VI.	ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION	28 - 37	11
	A. Opening and duration of the session	28	11
	B. Attendance	29 - 32	11
	C. Agenda	33	11
	D. Other matters	34 - 37	12
Annex.	LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT ITS RESUMED 1995 SESSION		13

I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft decisions

1. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations

The Economic and Social Council decides to grant the following non-governmental organizations consultative status:

Category II

ISIS International (Chile)

ISIS International Women's Information and Communication Service

DRAFT DECISION II

Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, categories I and II

The Economic and Social Council decides that, pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 40 (b) of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), the consultative status of the following 12 organizations, which failed to submit a detailed report on their activities for the period 1988-1991, as requested by the Committee in 1993 (E/1993/63, para. 32), be withdrawn:

Africa Institute of Private International Law

Africa Union of Architects

Association de coopération internationale au développement-Organisation pour la recherche appliquée au développement

Balkan-ji-Bari International

Ger.eva Informal Meeting of International Youth NGOs (GIM)

International Federation of Landscape Architects

International New Towns Association

International Study Center for Children and Families

Latin American Association of Development Organizations

Latin American Council of Catholic Women

Pan-American Federation of Engineering Societies

World Federation of Development Financing Institutions

DRAFT DECISION III

Applications from organizations of indigenous people not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council for participation in the open-ended inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples

The Economic and Social Council decides to approve the participation of the following 12 organizations of indigenous people not in consultative status with the Council in the open-ended inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights, whose establishment was authorized by the Council in resolution 1995/32:

Asociación Socio-Económico de Productores Indígenas del Tawantinsuyu "ASEPIITA" (Bolivia)

Centro Cultural de Jóvenes Aymaras de Larecaja (Bolivia)

Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Campaign (India)

Confederación Indígena del Oriente, Chaco y Amazonía de Bolivia (Bolivia)

Confederación Sindical Unica de Trabajadores Campesinos de Bolivia (Bolivia)

Indian Confederation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (India)

Innu Nation and Mamit Innuat (Canada)

Lumad Mindanaw Peoples Federation (Philippines)

Movimiento Indio "Tupaj Katari" (Bolivia)

Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac-Katary de Liberación (Bolivia)

New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (Australia)

Tribal Communities Association of the Philippines (Philippines)

DRAFT DECISION IV

Provisional agenda for the session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to be held in 1996

The Economic and Social Council approves the provisional agenda set out below for the session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to be held in 1996.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO BE HELD IN 1996

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations:

   (a) Applications for consultative status referred back to the Committee by the Economic and Social Council or deferred by the Committee at its 1995 session;

   (b) New applications for consultative status.

4. Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, categories I and II.

5. Implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/304:

   (a) Review of arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations;

   (b) Review of methods of work of the Committee.

6. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The attention of the Council is drawn to the following: the Committee noted the proposal of a number of delegations that the Council request the Secretariat to ensure timely translation of the relevant documentation of the Committee into all the official languages of the Council, unless the Committee decided otherwise (see para. 26 below).

II. APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

3. The Committee considered agenda item 2 of its agenda at its 582nd, 586th to 588th and 591st meetings, on 29 and 31 January and on 1 and 2 February 1996. It had before it the memorandum by the Secretary-General containing new applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations (E/C.2/1995/R.2/Add.28 and 31).

4. At its 1995 session (12-23 June), the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had decided to defer consideration of the applications of ISIS International (Chile), ISIS International Women's Information and Communications Service and the International Energy Foundation until its resumed 1995 session (E/1995/108, para. 38).

5. At its 591st meeting, on 2 February, the Committee decided to recommend that the Economic and Social Council grant consultative status, category II, to ISIS International (Chile) and ISIS International Women's Information and Communication Service (see sect. I.A, draft decision I). It also decided to defer further consideration of the application of the International Energy Foundation to its 1996 session.

III. REVIEW OF QUADRENNIAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, CATEGORIES I AND II

6. The Committee considered agenda item 3 of its agenda at its 582nd to 591st meetings, from 29 January to 2 February 1996. It had before it quadrennial reports for the period 1988-1991 and 1990-1993 on the activities of 183 non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, categories I and II (E/C.2/1995/2 and Add.1-10 and E/C.2/1995/3 and Add.1). 1/

A. Quadrennial reports, 1990-1993

7. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations decided:

(a) To request the following 41 organizations to submit their report for the period 1990-1993 within six months of the adoption by the Committee of the present report:*

African Women Jurists Federation

Agudas Israel World Organization

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* The Committee adopted its report at its 591st meeting, on 2 February 1996 (see sect. V below).

Council of International Programs

Europe Migrants Association Council

European Federation of Conference Towns

European Insurance Committee

European League for Economic Cooperation

Inter-American Housing Union

International Association for Impact Assessment

International Association of Civil Servants

International Association of Lawyers*

International Council for Building Research, Studies and Documentation

International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa

International Driving Tests Committee

International Federation of Journalists

International Federation of Women Lawyers

International Federation of Women in Legal Careers

International Law Association

International Senior Citizens Association, Inc.

International Social Science Council

International Sports Organization for the Disabled

International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electrical Energy

International Union of Public Transport

International Union of Students

International Union of Technical Associations and Organizations

Latin American Association of Finance Development Institutions (ALIDE)

Latin American Association of Industrial Design (ALADI)

Latin American Federation of Associations of Relatives of Disappeared Detainees

National Association of Realtors

Organization for International Economic Relations (IER)

Union Iberoamericana de Colegios y Agrupaciones de Abogados

War Resisters International

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* Formerly known as International Union of Lawyers.

Women's Missionary Society of African Methodist Episcopal Church

World Association for Element Building and Prefabrication

World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations

World Management Council

World Psychiatric Association

World Women's Christian Temperance Union

World Young Women's Christian Association

(b) To inform the above-mentioned organizations that, if their report was not submitted by 2 August 1996, the Committee would take appropriate action, which could result in a change in their status or its suspension or withdrawal;

(c) To request them to limit their report to 1,500 words and to concentrate, in their report, on their contribution to the work of the Council or its commissions or other subsidiary organs.

8. The Committee noted that the reports of the following organizations could not be reproduced in time for consideration by the Committee at its 1995 session and, in accordance with past practice, would be considered at its 1996 session:

Church World Service

Fundación de Ayuda contra la Drogadicción

International Association of Judges

International Institute of Administrative Sciences

International League of Societies for Persons with Mental Handicap

Islamic African Relief Agency

Latin American Iron and Steel Institute

Society of Comparative Legislation

Union de Ciudades Capitales Iberoamericanas

World Organization of the Scout Movement

9. Regarding the report of Amnesty International (see E/C.2/1995/2), some members of the Committee expressed satisfaction regarding the activities of the organization. Some members of the Committee stated that the organization should consider expanding its activities in all areas relevant to human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, within the framework of the Vienna Declaration adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993.

10. Regarding the report of Liberal International (see E/C.2/1995/2), several members of the Committee stated that the report was satisfactory and that the organization had complied with the provisions of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV). Other members of the Committee stated that the report and subsequent information provided by the organization were not satisfactory, especially regarding references to "Taiwan" and "Macedonia" and the information provided regarding

the "Union Liberal Cubana". The Committee decided that it would pursue its consideration of the report at its 1996 session.

11. Regarding the report of Christian Democratic International (see E/C.2/1995/2/Add.3), one member requested additional information regarding the "peace process, reconciliation and/or democratization in a number of countries". The Committee, noting that the information had not been provided during the current session, decided to pursue its consideration of the report at its 1996 session.

12. Regarding the report of Human Rights Advocates (see E/C.2/1995/2/Add.5), since some members requested clarification of the list of countries in which the organization conducted activities and of references to "Tibet", the Committee decided to pursue its consideration of the report at its 1996 session.

13. Regarding the report of International Young Christian Workers (see E/C.2/1995/2/Add.6), some members requested additional information on the activities of the organization since they related specifically to the Economic and Social Council. The Committee decided to pursue its consideration of the report at its 1996 session.

14. Regarding the report of Rehabilitation International (see E/C.2/1995/2/Add.6), one member of the Committee stated that in future the organization should adhere to United Nations terminology in its listing of countries.

15. Regarding the report of the International Agency for Rural Industrialization (see E/C.2/1995/2/Add.8), the Committee decided to request the organization to provide additional information regarding its activities on "promotion of rural industrialization" and to request the representative of the organization to appear before the Committee at its 1996 session.

B. Follow-up to the decisions taken by the Committee at its 1993 session

16. At its 1993 session, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had requested the organizations that had failed to submit reports for the period 1988-1991 to provide them within three months. The Committee had decided to review those reports at its 1995 session, and had agreed that, in accordance with past practice, those organizations that failed to submit a report within the specified time could have their consultative status with the Economic and Social Council withdrawn (see E/1993/63, paras. 32 and 33). The Secretariat had communicated the Committee's decision to the organizations concerned.

17. At its resumed 1995 session, the Committee, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 40 (b) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), decided to recommend that the Council withdraw the consultative status of 12 organizations that had failed to submit a report on their activities for the period 1988-1991, as requested by the Committee at its 1993 session (see sect. I.A, draft decision II).

18. The Committee, noting the information provided to the Secretariat by the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the Inter-American Federation of Touring and Automobile Clubs, and the World Africa Chamber of Commerce, decided to request those three organizations to confirm their interest in using their consultative status in the future.

19. Regarding the report of the Institute for Policy Studies (see E/C.2/1995/3), the Committee, during the current session, requested the organization to indicate if it had used its consultative status since 1991 and if it intended to use it in the future. Since the information requested was not provided, the Committee decided to pursue its consideration of the report at its 1996 session.

20. Regarding the report of the International Committee for European Security and Cooperation (see E/C.2/1995/3), the Committee, during the current session, requested the organization to provide additional information on its activities specifically connected with the Economic and Social Council. Since the information requested was not provided, the Committee decided to pursue its consideration of the report at its 1996 session.

21. Regarding the report of the International Society for Research on Aggression (see E/C.2/1995/3), the Committee, during the current session, requested the organization to provide additional information on its activities specifically connected with the Economic and Social Council. Since the information requested was not provided, the Committee decided to pursue its consideration of the report at its 1996 session.

22. Regarding the report of Pax Christi International (see E/C.2/1995/3/Add.1), several members of the Committee were of the opinion that the report was satisfactory and in compliance with Council resolution 1296 (XLIV). Other members pointed out that the report and the additional information provided by the organization were not satisfactory, in particular the references to the issue of Tibet. The Committee decided to close its discussion of the report and to request the organization to provide further information for consideration by the Committee at its 1996 session.

23. The Committee recommended that non-governmental organizations, in their documents and communications, adhere to the terminology approved by the United Nations.

IV. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 1996 SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

24. The Committee considered item 5 of its agenda at its 591st meeting, on 2 February 1996. It had before it an informal paper containing the draft provisional agenda for the 1996 session.

25. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its 1996 session for submission to the Economic and Social Council (see sect. I.A, draft decision IV).

26. At the same meeting, a member of the Committee, noting that its documentation was issued in English, French and Spanish only, proposed that all documents before the Committee be issued in all the official languages of the Economic and Social Council. Statements in support of the proposal were made by two members of the Committee and by an observer. Three members expressed concern about the timeliness and appropriateness of the proposal.

V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

27. At its 591st meeting, on 2 February 1996, the Committee adopted the draft report on its resumed 1995 session (E/C.2/1996/L.1 and informal paper), as amended during the discussion.

VI. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

28. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations held its resumed 1995 session at United Nations Headquarters from 29 January to 2 February 1996. The Committee held 10 meetings (582nd to 591st meetings) and a number of informal meetings. The session was opened by the Chairman, Mrs. Ruth Limjuco (Philippines).

B. Attendance

29. Representatives of all the States members of the Committee attended the session: Bulgaria, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ethiopia, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Madagascar, Paraguay, Philippines, Russian Federation, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America.

30. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers: Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Iraq, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela.

31. The following specialized agencies were represented: World Health Organization and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

32. The following non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II, attended: Pax Christi International.

C. Agenda

33. At its 582nd meeting, on 29 January, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/C.2/1995/4. The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations.

3. Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, categories I and II.

4. Provisional agenda for the 1996 session.

5. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

D. Other matters

34. At its 582nd meeting, on 29 January, the Committee decided to continue its consideration of the applications from organizations of indigenous people that were interested in participating in the open-ended inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people.

35. At its 590th meeting, on 2 February, the Committee considered a number of applications from organizations of indigenous people that were interested in participating in the Working Group.

36. Statements were made by the representatives of Ireland and the Russian Federation, and by the observers for Canada and Bolivia.

37. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to recommend that the Economic and Social Council authorize 12 organizations of indigenous people not in consultative status with the Council to participate in the Working Group (see sect. I.A, draft decision III).

Notes

1/ At its 1995 session, the Committee took note of the reports of the following non-governmental organizations:

International League for the Rights and Liberations of Peoples (see E/C.2/1995/2/Add.2);

Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America (see E/C.2/1995/2/Add.5);

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (see E/C.2/1995/2/Add.10).

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT ITS RESUMED 1995 SESSION

Documents	Agenda item	Title or description
E/C.2/1995/4	1	Provisional agenda
E/C.2/1995/2 and Add.1-10	3	Quadrennial reports, 1988-1991 and 1990-1993
E/C.2/1995/3 and Add.1	3	Quadrennial reports: follow-up to decisions taken by the Committee at its session in 1993
E/C.2/1995/CRP.3	2	New applications for consultative status
E/C.2/1996/L.1	5	Draft report of the Committee on its resumed 1995 session
E/C.2/1995/R.2/ Add.28 and 31	2	Memorandum by the Secretary-General containing new applications for consultative status

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